

- Constantly tired
- Suffering from memory loss
- Fear of returning home or of contact with parents or family members.

Indicators alone rarely confirm abuse. These will require further assessment.

**On-line Safety** is important. The internet, although providing a vast array of information, is also a main tool used to recruit and groom people with the intention of committing harm to them or recruiting people to commit harm to others. It can also be a place where people can become victims of cyberbullying.

It is being aware of the nature of possible threats that you could encounter whilst engaging in activity through the Internet, these could be security threats, protecting and managing your personal data, online reputation, and avoiding harmful or illegal content. The College operates a filtering and monitoring system which blocks and flags malicious, hacked, or inappropriate websites which is active when you use your college account. Be aware of the risks of being on-line and if you are subject to a threat or if you are concerned by anything you experience on-line you must report it.

#### **The UK Safer Internet Centre**

saferinternet.org.uk has useful tips, which include specific advice for parents and carers and young people.

#### **How can I get help for myself or others?**

All College staff have a duty to safeguard learners. If you want to disclose information about a sensitive issue, then you are encouraged to talk with either your tutor, parent, carer or someone you can trust.

All students should understand that no staff member can promise to keep any information a secret if a person is at risk of harm.

If information about a concern is shared with a staff member, it will be passed on to a Safeguarding Officer, who will act sensitively and swiftly to reduce the risk of harm to learners or others.

**In an emergency, you can call 999.**

**College Staff** who can help you include Tutors/Pastoral Tutors, Student Support Team, Safeguarding Team, Counsellors, Health and Wellbeing Officers, Additional Learning Support and Managers.

Everyone is here to listen and support you, without judgement. We just want to keep you safe.

#### **Resources & Contacts**

**Young Minds** – committed to improving the emotional wellbeing of children and young people.  
youngminds.org.uk – 0808 802 5544

**Beat** – for people with eating disorders.  
b-eat.co.uk – 0808 801 0711

**Samaritans** – confidential, non-judgemental emotional support 24 hours a day.  
samaritans.org – 116 123

**Students against depression** – dedicated to sharing information, resources and treatment options on depression. studentdepression.org

**FRANK** – packed full of information on drugs and how to stay clear of them  
talktofrank.com – 0300 123 6600

**Muslim Youth Helpline** – provides faith and culturally sensitive support to Muslim youth in the UK. myh.org.uk – 0808 808 2008

**Childline** – 0800 1111 – childline.org.uk

**Lesbian & Gay Switchboard**  
0300 330 0630

**NHS Direct** – 111

**Mental Infoline:** 0300 123 3393 text: 86463



## **Safeguarding Guide for Learners**

Working together to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Carshalton College  
020 8544 4405  
ccstudent.support@stcg.ac.uk  
stcg.ac.uk/carshalton

Kingston College  
020 8268 2969  
referral.team@kingston-college.ac.uk  
stcg.ac.uk/kingstoncollege

Merton College  
020 8408 6433  
mcstudent.support@stcg.ac.uk  
stcg.ac.uk/merton

South Thames College  
020 8918 7384  
advice.wandsworth@stcg.ac.uk  
stcg.ac.uk/souththames

## What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility. Children include everyone under the age of 18.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined for the purposes of this guidance as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

## Why is safeguarding important?

The South Thames Colleges Group promotes safeguarding for all its learners, so information in this leaflet is provided to raise awareness of what safeguarding is and what you can do if you have a concern.

## What are the safeguarding risks?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Someone may abuse or neglect an individual by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm such as:

Physical Abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm.

**Emotional Abuse** is emotional maltreatment sufficient to cause severe or adverse effects on the individual's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or inadequate; it may involve bullying or causing someone to become frightened or feel in danger.

**Sexual Abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or vulnerable adult to take part in

sexual contact or non-contact activities such as watching pornographic material on film or a mobile phone.

**Child on Child Abuse** - children can abuse other children. This can include (but not limited to): abuse within intimate partner relationships; bullying (including cyberbullying); sexual violence/harassment; physical abuse; sexting and initiation/hazing violence, rituals and upskirting.

**Sexual violence/harassment between children** in College can occur between two children of any age and sex and the experience can be stressful and distressing. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting/harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual violence/harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap, they can occur online and offline (both physical and verbal) and are never acceptable.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet an individual's physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of their health and development.

**Forced Marriage** is where one or more of the parties are married, without their consent.

**Modern Slavery** may involve forced labour, human trafficking, people forced into a life of abuse and inhumane treatment.

**Honour Based Violence** is a form of domestic abuse, carried out in the name of so-called honour. The actions are designed to control behaviour within families or social groups, to protect the perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour usually with a religious or cultural belief.

**Radicalisation and Extremism** refers to a process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism, or vocal or active opposition to fundamental

British values including democracy, individual liberty and mutual respect.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** refers to the total or partial removal of female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs, for non-medical reasons.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** and **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)** are forms of abuse and occur where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance in power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child into sexual or criminal activity. The abuse can be perpetrated by individuals or groups, males or females, and children or adults. Victims can be exploited even when activity appears consensual and it should be noted, exploitation as well as being physical can be facilitated and/or take place online.

**County Lines Criminal Activity** refers to drug networks or gangs grooming and exploiting children to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban areas, rural areas and market and seaside towns.

**Upskirting** typically involves taking a picture under a person's clothing without them knowing, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to gain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or harm. It is now a criminal offence.

**Serious Youth Violence** indicators may include increased absence from College, a change in friendship groups, relationships with older individuals or a significant decline in performance. Unexplained gifts or new possessions could also indicate that children have been approached by, or are involved with, individuals associated with criminal networks or gangs.

Sexual Violence refers to sexual violence offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 23 which are Rape and Sexual Assault.

**Sexual Harassment** refers to 'unwanted conduct of a sexual nature' that can occur online and offline which can violate a child's dignity, and/or make them feel intimidated, degraded or humiliated and/or create a hostile, offensive or sexualised environment. It can also include sexual comments, such as: telling sexual stories, making lewd comments, making sexual remarks about clothes and appearance and calling someone sexualised names; sexual "jokes" or taunting; or it may include physical behaviour, such as: deliberately brushing against someone or interfering with someone's clothes. Sexual harassment includes any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature in the learning environment. If it is unwanted behaviour and it makes you feel uncomfortable it is always unacceptable and the College will always want you to report it.

**Online Sexual harassment** may include: non-consensual sharing of sexual images and videos; sexualised online bullying; unwanted sexual comments and messages, including, on social media; sexual exploitation; coercion and threats; and upskirting.

**Mental Health** problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

## There are many possible signs of neglect and/or abuse such as:

- Unexplained injuries
- Improbable excuses about injuries
- Self-harming
- Aggression towards others
- Self-destructive tendencies
- Low self-esteem, belittling oneself
- Poor state of clothes
- Constantly hungry or emaciated